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the necessity of reviving the appointment of a European Port Officer. In making the suggestion, he added that he had the full support of the influential native merchants of Alleppey, and submitted a letter addressed to him by the merchants on the subject.

Dewan's reply.—I have heard the Member's views about the Alleppey port with interest. A Committee has been appointed to consider, among other matters, the question of the trade of Alleppey. Mr. Davey is a member of that Committee, and I have no doubt that he will give his fellow members the benefit of his long experience of the port. Government will in due course give the subject their careful consideration.

VI.—Sanitation, Vital Statistics and Medical Relief.

45. Modification of the rules regarding the number and appointment of the non-official members of the Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) requested that the privilege of electing non-official members to the Town Improvement Committees might be conferred upon the people and that the number of non-official members on the Committees might be increased. He said that it could not be denied that the people were fit to exercise the privilege of election. The elective system of returning members to the Assembly was working very well. Again, last year, when the representatives of the Assembly were asked to elect a non-official member to the Legislative Council, the privilege was discreetly exercised by them, as was evidenced by the fact that their nomination met with the approval of Government. The object of the Committees would, if the proposal be adopted, be more satisfactorily served, the local needs would be promptly attended to and the means for the same more readily found. The Member also observed that what he was advocating was really no change, as Section 7 of the Regulation already contained an enabling provision and it was only necessary to give practical effect to that provision.

As regards the non-official members, he said that their number should be raised to two-thirds of the total number of members on the Committees. It was clear from the reports of the Committees that the attendance of the official members and their work were not satisfactory. It was not possible for them to find much time and convenience in the midst of their other official work. The case of the non-official members was different and they would find time for the work and would not also fail to take interest in it. He therefore prayed that Government might be pleased to give the matter their best consideration.

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Certain reforms in the dispensation of medical relief from the hospitals and native vaidyasalas.

Dewan's reply.—As I have already said, the matter will be considered.

Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Minachil Taluk) made the following suggestions for increasing the usefulness of Sirkar hospitals and native vaidyasalas :—

Hospitals—

(1) The rule requiring the personal attendance of patients at the hospitals for medicine should be abrogated.

(2) Medical officers should not be allowed to insist on the payment of fees as a condition precedent to their examining patients and dispensing medicine.

(3) Instructions should be issued to medical officers requiring them to attend readily to all emergent calls.

(4) No visiting fees should be claimed by medical officers for visits within a radius of three miles from the hospitals.

(5) Strict rules should be framed for regulating the fees to be paid to medical men.

Native Vaidyasalas—

(1) A central Ayurvedic College should be established at Trivandrum and an Ayurvedic school in each of the four divisions. Only passed men should be appointed to these institutions.

(2) The grants now given to vaidyasalas should be stopped. A vaidyasala should be opened in each taluk and vaidyans on fixed salaries appointed.

(3) A medicinal garden should be attached to the College at Trivandrum and the medicinal herbs &c. collected and distributed by the Principal to the several vaidyasalas.

(4) The native vaidyans should be trained in the methods of homeopathic treatment and liberal grants given to independent homeopathic vaidyasalas.

(5) The present Superintendent of Vaidyasalas should be appointed as the Principal of the Ayurvedic College. The vaidyasalas and ayurvedic schools should be divided into two ranges and two Inspectors, who have passed the Ayurvedic test, should be appointed.

(6) Separate and convenient buildings should be constructed for the Ayurvedic College and schools and for important vaidyasalas and they should all be properly equipped.

(7) The dispensaries which did not serve any useful purpose at present might be abolished and the funds

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